

Message-ID: <001f01c27486\$b0ac0b60\$26ed1542@oemcomputer>
From: etw111@bellsouth.net
To: Dale.E.Beter@saj02.usace.army.mil
Subject: Ruining Reef Diving
Date: Tue, 15 Oct 2002 15:08:54 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
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Content-Type: text/plain;
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Sir:

I am the environmental chair for the KSC Barracuda's Dive Club. We make approximately 11 weekend dive trips to West Palm Beach a year. The dives are made by approximately 10 divers per trip. Since the club only charges for the dive trip and not any food or lodging our records indicate the cost is \$125.00 per diver for a total of \$13750.00 pre year. I have been on these dives and from experience I have also had to buy fuel and food and lodging at nearby restaurants and gas stations. Normally this costs approximately \$115.00 above the cost of the diving.

The reason I am writing this is that I have been informed about the current plans to replenish the beaches of West Palm Beach. I live in a beachside community of Cocoa Beach and we just had our beaches replenished and I have first hand knowledge of the turbidity of the water and how the silt reduces visibility. I would like to encourage you to employ methods to not ruin the inshore reefs in your efforts to enlarge the beaches. The refurbishment and employment of the sand transfer pump is the best way to solve this delimma and the local governments should have taken this course 6 years ago. The Corps of Engineers did nothing here in Brevard County to ensure sand transfer so our problem was a little different. No matter what the march of the sand will continue so long term solutions are best.

The bottom line is that if the reefs are ruined our club will probably cut the number of trips to West Palm beach because the quality of the dives will be rock bottom. (pardon the pun)

The cost to the local small business man and the local hotels who cater to the Dive Trade could be negatively impacted. Our small contribution to the local economy is probably not much to the Beach Condo inhabitants but in this age of cut backs any decrease is not to be courted.

Please expend the effort to study the effect of the project thoroughly and do not destroy the off shore reefs.

Sincerely,
Earl T. Wiley, III
132 East Gadsden Lane
Cocoa Beach , Fl
32931
(321)799.4352
etw111@bellsouth.net <mailto:etw111@bellsouth.net>

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Content-Type: text/html;
 charset="iso-8859-1"

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</HEAD>
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<DIV><FONT size=2>(321)799.4352</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT size=2><A href="mailto:etw111@bellsouth.net">etw111@bellsouth.net</A></FONT></DIV></BODY></HTML>
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